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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: OSTERMANN et al. Group Art Unit: Unassigned U.S. National Phase Application Examiner: Unassigned U.S. Application No.: To Be Assigned Date of National Stage Entry : March 24, 2000 Based on PUT/AU98/00813 : September 25, 1998 Filed APPARATUS FOR REMOVING A For: SAMPLE FROM AN ARRAY OF SAMPLES AND A CUTTING TOOL FOR USE WITH THAT APPARATUS

## ATTENTION: BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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A Hall Man Hall

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

<u>Claim 3, line 1</u>, change "Apparatus" to --The apparatus--

change "as claimed in claim 2" to --of claim 2--;